

Flooding fears continue

17 January 2008

With the Met Office forecasting heavy rain over the coming days, especially over western parts of England and Wales, concerns remain over further flooding.

During Friday and Saturday, Atlantic weather fronts could bring as much 100 mm of rain to exposed upland areas of Wales, south-west England and the Lake District.

Met Office Operations Director Keith Groves said: "The weather over the next three days is certainly causing concern and we have a close working relationship with the Environment Agency in these situations. Our main focus is Friday and Saturday but heavy rain could continue into Sunday and it is this cumulative effect that is causing the current problems."

Many rivers are already very full and Doug Whitfield, National Flood Warning Duty Officer at the Environment Agency said: "Although we are paying close attention to the rivers Wye, Dee and Severn we are continuing to closely monitor all rivers across England and Wales during this period of very wet weather."

The heavy rain expected over western hills and mountains is only part of the story. As the water makes its way downstream, local flooding is likely over the following days as rivers become more swollen. The Environment Agency Floodline 0845 988 1188, provides latest information on flood warnings.

The public are encouraged to keep up to date with latest Met Office forecasts through its website and TV and radio broadcasts.

As we go into next week, some respite may be on the horizon as pressure builds, which is likely to bring drier conditions from the south.

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For further information:

Met Office Press Office +44 (0)1392 886655

E-mail: pressoffice@metoffice.gov.uk

Met Office Customer Centre 0870 900 0100

If you're outside the UK +44 (0)1392 885680